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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 20 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, issued on 17 December 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

## Statement on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, issued on 17 December 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes Eritrea's statement on progress on the demarcation of the boundary with Ethiopia contained in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declaration issued on 12 December, indicating that the peace process has arrived at a propitious juncture. The European Union agrees that the way forward lies in the full implementation of the 2000 Algiers Agreement and the subsequent final and binding decision of the Boundary Commission.

In this regard, the European Union considers the Eritrean statement, in conjunction with the declaration by Ethiopia of 25 November in which it pledges to pay its outstanding dues to the Boundary Commission and appoint field liaison officers, as an encouraging step which lays ground for further progress in the peaceful resolution of the border conflict between the two countries.

The European Union expresses its hope that the Boundary Commission will now be in a position to commence, in close cooperation with the two countries, the demarcation process and thus lay a solid basis upon which a lasting peace can be secured.

The European Union reiterates its firm commitment to assist Eritrea and Ethiopia in overcoming the current stalemate. The European Union considers sustainable peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea as fundamental for further national development and for the enhancement of peace and security in the region as a whole.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia,* Romania and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.